

Kazakhstan riots cause deaths

MOSCOW (R) — Armed youths went on the rampage in the Soviet Central Asian Republic of Kazakhstan, causing an unconfirmed number of deaths. TASS news agency said Monday, TASS, reporting the latest outbreak of violence in the country's outlying regions, said the youths tried to seize a police station, public transport and other key points at weekend in the city of Novy Uzen, east of the Caspian Sea. It suggested that the violence was still going on. The rioting was the fifth outbreak of violence in the year in the Soviet Union's volatile southern republics. It followed 10 days of violence in neighbouring Uzbekistan this month in which at least 97 people died. Witnesses said Uzbeks hunted down minorities. Kazakhstan, too, was burning homes, raping women and torturing citizens (see page 8). Besides the violence in Uzbekistan, more than 90 people have died in clashes in Armenia and Azerbaijan since early 1988 over the disputed territory of Nagorno-Karabakh. In Georgia, 20 people died when troops used gas and shovels to disperse nationalist demonstrators in the capital, Tbilisi. Disturbances have also been reported in the Central Asian Republic of Turkmenistan.

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Five-day Al Al Bait conference opens King calls for efforts to heal Muslim rifts

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday opened a five-day conference of the Royal Academy for Islamic Civilisation Research (Al Al Bait foundation) with a call on Muslim scholars and researchers to heal rift among Muslim nations and to restore unity within Muslim ranks.

"You are the elite of Muslim scholars meeting today in your seventh conference to debate issues of concern to the Muslim Nation, and you alone can serve as deacons, guiding the nation to unity and saving it from loss," King Hussein said in an address to the delegates, who represent Arab and Islamic states at the conference.

King Hussein said the conference serves as an appropriate forum for Muslim scholars to discuss Islamic issues and problems of concern to the Islamic World.

It is the scholars' mission to reach into the hearts of worship

ers and ordinary people, and guide them to the facts and their struggle through life," the King said.

King Hussein made four suggestions, including a call on Muslims to desist from slandering one another in private and public and on scholars to lead the way in their writings and set good examples in their writings and other cultural and religious works.

He said centrism means tolerance, moderation and avoiding extremism and fanaticism, and all these are characteristics of the true image of Islam.

King Hussein said the task of scholars and researchers was tremendous and heavy and the Amman conference provides another opportunity for them to look into new methods to tackle outstanding issues in Islamic life.

He noted that Muslims often hear and listen to Islamic teachings through the media, and from preachers at mosques, but they seldom abide by the teachings.

The King noted that Arab and Islamic countries were confronting very serious events and challenges which warrant vigilance, awareness and preparedness intellectually, materially and psychologically.

He said that fending off injustice and aggression can be achieved only through acquiring means of development, cooperation, unity of ranks and true adherence to religious teaching.

At the outset of the session, Al Al Bait President Nasereddin Al

Assad outlined the development

and the work of the academy, which was established in 1981 as a forum for Muslim scholars and those concerned with Muslim studies.

Assad gave details of the academy's long, short and medium term plans and programmes, which entail issuing publications dealing with education, Shura, treatment of non-Islamic nationals, "management" and finance in Islam and others. He said that 95 Muslim scholars were

involved in research.

The five-day meeting will review reports on the academy's activities and achievements in 1987 and 1988, plans for the coming stage, and projects underway.

The opening session was attended by Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, senior officials, university professors, heads of Arab and foreign diplomatic missions in Amman and other dignitaries.

During a meeting with a delegation representing the leaders and tribes of Bani Hassan, the prime minister underlined the need to directly hear the views of everybody so as to decide what is best for all. He stressed that "meetings with the citizens is dictated by the feeling of responsibility and the fact that we are one coherent family functioning under the guidance of His Majes-

ty King Hussein for the best of Jordan and the Arab Nation."

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means to participate in the parliamentary election process. The delegation members thanked the prime minister for his responsible and clear positions toward the issues they raised and emphasised their backing for the Hashemite leadership.

Present at the meeting were Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Saleh Masa'deh and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Ibrahim Izzeddin.

Sharif Zaid, tribal leaders discuss election

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Jordan welcomes Egypt, Libya to APU

ABU DHABI (Agencies) — Jordan Monday welcomed Egypt's return to the Arab Parliamentary Union (APU) and congratulated Libya for joining the APU.

Addressing the fifth APU conference which opened here Monday, Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Lawzi also said the Arabs support Iraq's rights to its territories and water, express pride in its victories and sacrifices, and unanimously agree on the need to consolidate peace between Iraq and Iran.

The Palestine National Council is participating in the meeting. "Supervisors have condemned human rights violations in certain parts of the world but maintain silence over the violations against Palestinians," said UAE Parliament Speaker Hisham Ahmad Lootah, the APU president, in an opening address.

"Was that violation prohibited and this allowed? Can we deal with double standards on the issue of human rights?" he said.

Lawzi also reviewed developments in the Middle East since the beginning of the intifada and referred to Jordan's severance of legal and administrative ties with the West Bank, the Palestine Liberation Organisation's peace thrust, the Amman summit conference, and the creation of the Arab Cooperation Council and the Arab Maghreb Union and the Casablanca summit conference.

Turning to the situation in Lebanon, Lawzi noted that the country's disintegration "is a bad omen that jeopardises the future of several Arab countries." He called on the Lebanese and Arabs to shoulder their responsibilities, and wished the tripartite Arab

committee on Lebanon success.

Lawzi called on the APU members to adopt unified positions and hoped that all the Arab countries will be represented one day in the APU.

Other Arab parliamentarians also appealed to legislators around the world to condemn Israeli actions against Palestinians.

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The council Sunday also accepted the membership of Libya's People's Public Congress as a parliamentary body, despite opposition from the Lebanese delegation.

Peking defers key congress

PEKING (Agencies) — Authorities have postponed indefinitely a legislative session scheduled to discuss reforms that had been demanded by student demonstrators, deepening the mystery surrounding China's leadership.

Wan Li, the chairman of the National People's Congress, had scheduled a congress session beginning Tuesday "to discuss issues of people's common concern and prompt the government to improve its work."

But a spokesman at the congress's press office said the session was postponed because Peking had not yet returned completely to normal. No new date was set, he said.

The legislature may be waiting until the Communist Party holds an expected Central Committee meeting to formally oust General Secretary Zhao Ziyang, who reportedly already has been stripped of power. Qiao Shi, the party official responsible for security, has emerged as a likely successor.

Several thousand student protesters had planned to stay in central Peking's Tiananmen Square, fronting the Great Hall of the People where the congress meets, until the session began. But they were routed out June 3-4 when troops with tanks and machine guns shot their way through huge crowds protecting the students and rolled into the square.

Chinese state radio carried calls Monday to intensify Marxist teaching as hardline Premier Li Peng told the nation: "The counter-revolutionary rebellion is basically over. Now the situation is developing in a positive way."

Li paid tribute to the troops he sent to. "Our soldiers showed great restraint... our party, government and soldiers showed restraint. You can't find such a country elsewhere in the world."

Shamir vows 'iron fist' after settler's death

Medics protest Israeli attack on ambulance

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Doctors and health workers in Nablus in the occupied West Bank staged a demonstration with a convoy of ambulances protesting against Israeli troops who opened fire on a Palestinian ambulance Sunday, wounding the driver.

Dr. Imad Sader said driver Awni Sawalheh, 31, suffered severe gunshot wounds in the abdomen. The ambulance was carrying casualties from a clash between protesters and troops.

An army spokesman confirmed that soldiers opened fire because the ambulance was driving "wildly" after the clash and refused orders to stop. The spokesman said soldiers shot at the wheels.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir meanwhile vowed that Israel would tackle Palestinian violence with an "iron fist" after a Jewish settler was stabbed to death in the West Bank.

In the occupied Gaza Strip, six Palestinians were wounded in clashes in the Bureij and Nuseirat refugee camps, including a 65-year-old man struck in the knee, doctors said.

Rosenfeld's body was found with a knife stuck in the back at about 9 a.m. Sunday by Palestinian shepherds on a deserted hilltop between two villages of Salfit and Burin, about five kilometres from the main highway, said Avi Shalom, head of security in Ariel settlement.

Rosenfeld had been missing since Friday night.

Shalom said Rosenfeld had apparently walked to the barren area from Ariel, where he had been demanding tougher army actions after Friedrich Steven Rosenfeld was knifed while hiking near a neighbouring Arab village. His gun was taken.

Waving Israeli flags, they then marched to parliament chanting "Jewish blood is not in vain" and scuffled with guards who denied them entrance.

Shamir blamed Palestinians for the slaying and said punishment would be swift and harsh.

"Israel's security forces will uphold this violence with an iron fist," he said.

Chaim Malka, a West Bank police commander, said police suspected Arabs in the slaying. But he said all possibilities would

be investigated.

Also Monday, the military command extended the closure of West Bank schools for another month despite pleas from the United States and human rights groups to reopen the schools.

The 1,194 schools, including 145 kindergartens, have been closed for all but a few weeks since Feb. 3, 1988, keeping 320,000 pupils out of classrooms.

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There were conflicting accounts of the shooting. The army said the assailant was killed by the assailant while Palestinian sources said he was hit by fire from the wounded captain. The officer denied opening fire.

The Israeli authorities Sunday outlawed three principal Muslim fundamentalist organisations in the occupied territories making membership in them punishable by a prison sentence of up to 10 years, a cabinet communiqué said.

In Nablus, troops shot and killed two Palestinian teenagers, reports said.

Eighteen Palestinians were also wounded in unrest which erupted Sunday in seven areas in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, according to reporters.

Hours later, Israeli soldiers dispersed a rock-throwing protest shot to the head and killed 19-year-old Mahdi Jamus, reports said.

START talks get a 'good start'

GENEVA (Agencies) — U.S.-Soviet talks aimed at halving their strategic nuclear arsenals resumed Monday after a seven-month break with a meeting of the two sides' new chief negotiators.

The talks, aimed at forging a Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) and interrupted to allow President George Bush to carry out a defence review after taking office in January, seek a 50 per cent cut in strategic nuclear arms with ranges of 5,500 kilometres and above.

The talks began with a first meeting between Richard Burt, the new U.S. negotiator, and his Soviet counterpart, Yuri Nazarkin, who last met more than 20 months ago.

Burt, a former journalist and West German ambassador, played a major role in strategic arms negotiations under former President Ronald Reagan.

Nazarkin, a chemical weapons expert, led the Soviet delegation at the 40-nation Geneva conference on disarmament until being appointed to replace Alexei Obukhov.

After the meeting, Burt said he conveyed Bush's "overall approach to arms control." He described Nazarkin as "technically capable" and "a low-key problem solver."

"I hope we will make some progress," Burt said.

Nazarkin described their first meeting as "a good start." Asked whether he would present fresh proposals, he replied: "In due course."

Along with the START talks, negotiators will resume parallel talks on space and defence issues. Detailed negotiations are due to begin Wednesday with a full meeting of both delegations at the

Soviet mission.

The session is expected to last six weeks. It comes against the backdrop of recent progress and superpower initiatives in talks on conventional disarmament in Europe.

A new element springing from the Bush review is a draft U.S. proposal for on-site trials inspections to monitor some cuts of long-range ballistic missiles already written into the draft treaty, Washington officials said. A Defense Department official said Bush wants to take advantage of glasnost, or openness, in the Soviet Union.

But neither side has hinted at movement on three other disputes: U.S. plans for space-based missile defenses, sea-launched cruise missiles and mobile land-based missiles.

The Soviets say the U.S. strategic defence initiative, known as "Star Wars," would violate a 1972 superpower treaty. But Bush says a start treaty must "fully protect our options for developing and deploying" Star Wars.

Standoffs also have developed over Moscow's demand for including sea-based cruise missiles under the treaty and Washington's call for a ban on mobile missiles.

Previous session already have hammered out a draft treaty to cut each side's long-range, or strategic, nuclear forces by 30 to 50 per cent.

START is intended to cover nuclear weapons with which the superpowers can strike each other, including sea- and land-based ballistic missiles and heavy bombers that are considered most dangerous.

Right, left balanced in Europe

BRUSSELS (AP) — The new European Parliament is likely to be finely balanced between left and right with major gains for Socialists and Greens partly offset by gains on the extreme right, according to near-final vote results Monday. Socialists won a further 16 seats taking their total to 182 or the 518 parliament seats. Greens, who often vote along the same lines as the Socialists, won a further 17 seats to take their total to 37. And although Communists lost seven seats their total of 41 was still enough to take the three left-wing parties to a majority of 260. Alliances of the center-right could muster 218 seats and even if they voted with the extreme-right party which has 22 seats, up from 16, they would still only have 240 votes. The balance hangs with 18 independencies. The European elections were a defeat for British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's Conservatives. They lost 13 of their 45 seats. They went to Labour which surged from 32 to 45 seats. "The results were disappointing, but we shall renew our efforts for next time," Thatcher said of her first defeat in a national ballot since she won power 10 years ago.



His Majesty King Hussein Monday opens a conference of the Al Al Bait Foundation (photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

62 detained in Sudan coup plot

KHARTOUM (Agencies) — Sudan has arrested 14 army officers and 48 civilians in connection with a plot to topple the government and bring former President Jaafar Numeiri back to power, independent Khartoum newspapers said Monday.

The newspapers said the coup plot had been scheduled to be carried out around noon Monday when Prime Minister Saeq Al Mahdi delivered a major policy speech in parliament.

They quoted military and security sources as saying tanks and armoured vehicles from a major army barracks on the capital's outskirts had been due to ring parliament and the armed forces' headquarters in central Khartoum.

Mahdi, cabinet ministers, parliamentary deputies and members of the armed forces' general command were to have been seized.

The newspapers said the 14 army officers detained in connection with the coup plot included six brigadiers, two colonels, one lieutenant-colonel and five majors. One newspaper, Al Kharoum, named nine of them.

Chief of staff General Mahdi Babu Nimir told the daily Al Ushu that the 60,000-strong armed

forces would continue to safeguard democratic rule in Sudan and the country's unity.

News of the coup plot, first published in a military communiqué broadcast on state radio Sunday night, came six months after authorities said they had foiled a coup attempt by ex-army officers and civilians who served under Numeiri.

The former leader has lived in Egypt since being ousted in a 1985 military coup. He told the Khartoum newspaper Al Watan in an interview with its editor published Saturday that he would return to power in two to four weeks.

The fourth part of the interview was published Monday in Al Watan, which also carried a front page story saying that its editor Sidahmed Khalifa was arrested by security authorities on Sunday under emergency laws.

An emergency cabinet meeting was due to be held Monday to review reports by security authorities on the latest coup plot.

Police increased the number of their stop-and-search checkpoints in Khartoum during the night and in the early morning. They asked motorists and passengers to produce identity cards and searched

their cars.

In remarks published Monday, Mahdi renewed charges that Egypt was conspiring with Numeiri against Sudan. Last month, the prime minister accused Cairo of using Numeiri to undermine his rule.

Arab diplomats in Khartoum have said the government had told Cairo of its dismay at Numeiri's increasing political activity and that he was being allowed to give interviews to the media.

Egypt has rejected several requests from Khartoum to extradite Numeiri to stand trial in Sudan on charges carrying the death penalty. Cairo has argued that he qualified for political asylum under the provisions of its constitution.

Numeiri, according to recent press reports in Khartoum, called for the government's overthrow in cassette tapes smuggled into Sudan last month to mark the 20th anniversary of the military coup that brought him to power in 1969.

After 16 years as president, Numeiri was overthrown by the military on April 26, 1985, following wide-spread civilian disobedience campaign. He was on

his way home from the United States when he found himself stranded in Cairo.

He was granted political asylum in Egypt on condition he refrains from political activities.

In a rare interview with the AP at his Cairo residence early this month, Numeiri called on the Sudanese people to overthrow Mahdi's government which he described as a "government of thieves" to pave the way for his return.

He said he had sent tapes and printed speeches to Sudan last month, accusing Mahdi of being the cause of all of the country's problems.

"Those who were deceived (by Mahdi) now call for the (return of the) regime of Jaafar Numeiri... I have received numerous letters and people, all asking me to save Sudan after it has fallen in a deep abyss as they put it," Numeiri said.

Numeiri said the Egyptian government has expressed displeasure at the handful of interviews he has given in the last few months, "but the pressure on me from the Sudanese people does not allow me to keep my word to the Egyptian government."

"All the difference sections of the Sudanese people have called me and asked me to return," Numeiri claimed. "I told them, if you want me to return, you have to fight from within and overthrow this regime... and when you have your hands on the power, I will be ready."

Mahdi came to power one year after Numeiri's ouster following parliamentary elections but his weak coalitions have failed since to make substantial progress in improving Sudan's ailing economy or ending the civil war in the south.

Numeiri denies report

In Cairo, Numeiri Monday denied that his supporters in Khartoum had been planning a coup.

Numeiri charged from his exile in Cairo that the story of the alleged conspiracy was invented to divert the Sudanese people's attention from their government.

"They are always arresting people I knew," the former president said. "Six months ago, they arrested a southern man who used to help my former chef. They also detained a former butler, and five or six distantly related relatives of mine."



Saeq Al Mahdi

"This is a poor plan by the government, which is trying to divert the masses from their suffering," he said. "The government is trying to increase prices again, and they want to divert the people's attention."

Numeiri said he has been told that Sudan's Interior Ministry, in charge of police, has been compiling for weeks lists of his supporters, intending to arrest them on charges of trying to overthrow the government.

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Fight aboard led to Afghan crash — Iran

NICOSIA (Agencies) — The crash-landing of an Afghan airliner in eastern Iran in which six people were killed was caused by a fight between the crew and security guards, Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported Monday.

The Agency and Tehran Radio, both monitored in Nicosia, made no mention of a hijacking, which earlier Iranian and Afghan reports had blamed for Sunday's crash in desert terrain southeast of Zabol, close to the Afghan border.

He did not say where his information came from, but said the hijacker's identities were not known.

He also charged that Afghan diplomats "have not been allowed to go near the site of the hijacking."

But IRNA said that an Afghan delegation left for Zabol Monday to investigate the incident and to arrange for transporting the casualties and dead back to Afghanistan.

Afghanistan and Iran do not have diplomatic relations, but maintain embassies in each other's capitals.

Amani said it was unclear who the "hijackers" were or what they wanted but they could have been rebels trying to free prisoners.

"We have heard there was an exchange of fire on board and that some people were wounded," Amani said. He said it was the first known hijacking in Afghanistan.

"In countries all over, the world, it often happens, that opposition groups change their fighting tactics," Amani said.

Maybe they did it to get our government to release some Mujahideen prisoners. It's a kind of pressure," he said.

Afghan rebels known as Mujahideen have fought Afghan and Soviet troops in Afghanistan for the past 10 years.

Amani said the government thought the hijackers might be Iran-based Mujahideen but this, he added, was not confirmed.

He said the Afghan government had released 16,000 political or Mujahideen prisoners since Jan. 15, 1987, and fewer than 1,000 remained in Afghan jails.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Khomeini's books, poems to be published

NICOSIA (AP) — A collection of mystical poems is among works by the late Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini that will soon be published, the official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported Sunday. The agency, monitored in Nicosia, quoted Hojatolislam Mohammad Ali Ansari, a member of Khomeini's office staff, as saying about 300 works to be published are in the revolutionary patriarch's own handwriting. Khomeini died June 3 of a heart attack suffered after he underwent intestinal surgery for a cancerous condition. The stern spiritual leader wrote many treatises on religion but Iranians got a glimpse of a different side to his character last month when one of his romantic, mystical poems was read on state-run television. Ansari said that not even Khomeini's close family members and associates recognised all the "mystical, spiritual, and lofty ethical aspects of Imam Khomeini's dynamic personality," IRNA reported.

Spanish attache falls to death in Egypt

CAIRO (R) — The Spanish commercial attache to Egypt died Saturday when he accidentally fell from a hotel balcony in Alexandria, Spanish Ambassador Carlos Fernandez-Longoria said. He said the attache, Jesus Guigueri, was staying in the Mediterranean city to attend a Spanish festival there when he fell from the fourth floor Saturday evening and died instantly.

APU rebuffs Eritreans

ABU DHABI (R) — Arab parliamentarians have rejected applications by two Eritrean rebel groups to join their Damascus-based union. The chairman of the Arab Parliamentary Union (APU), Salah Balli of Tunisia, said at a meeting in Abu Dhabi that allowing either group to join could harm their drive for independence from Ethiopia. "While we reaffirm support for the Eritrean struggle for self-determination, we urge our brothers in Eritrea to unify their ranks and remove the obstacles which blocked their quest," he said. Delegates said the requests to join parliamentarians from 15 Arab states in the APU were made by the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) and the Eritrean National Council (ENC). EPLF representative in Abu Dhabi, Ahmed Al Haj Ali, said that they had hoped that APU membership would aid their cause. He said the ENC had offices abroad but no presence in Eritrea. The EPLF is the largest Eritrean rebel group fighting for the independence of the Red Sea province from Addis Ababa.

Khamenei restates anti-U.S. position

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran's new leader, President Ali Khamenei, said Sunday that Iran's policy of hostility towards the United States must continue, state-run Tehran Radio reported.

Speaking on a broadcast monitored in Nicosia, Khamenei said that Iran had won respect for standing up to the United States, "that global bully and ruffian," which must be preserved.

He said that anti-Americanism was a legacy of the late Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini that should be honored.

Khamenei mocked the closest ties between the United States and the late Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, whose regime was toppled by Khomeini's revolution in 1979.

"America... used to regard the head of this country as under its own flag, and used to treat him as its own property."

"But the powerful arm of the architect of the revolution and father of the Islamic republic, transformed this country into a nation, which inflicted the biggest



Ali Khamenei

barred by the constitution from contesting a third four-year term.

Whilst the moderates favour liberalising the tightly controlled economy and improving relations with the West, the radicals, under hardline Interior Minister Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, are opposed to such policies.

Iran is likely to gradually moderate its extremist stance if the Khamenei-Rafsanjani team can face down the radicals, analysts believe.

But they will have to move slowly to avoid triggering a radical backlash and echo Khomeini's anti-Western policies until their own political base is consolidated, the analysts say.

He is believed to be aligned with the influential Parliament Speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani, who is the only declared candidate for presidential elections due to be held Aug. 18.

Khamenei, who has served as Iran's head of state since 1981, is

Iran brings polls forward

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran's presidential election will be held July 28, three weeks earlier than planned, and the new president will start his four-year term before the official October date, Iran's Interior Ministry announced Monday.

The official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), monitored in Nicosia, said the announcement gave no reason for advancing the election from the scheduled date of Aug. 18.

But the move appeared to be aimed at speeding up the transition of power following the June 3 death of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini and consolidating control under his successor, President Ali Khamenei, and his likely successor as head of state, Parliament Speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani.

The Interior Ministry said that a national referendum on major constitutional amendments, which had also been scheduled for Aug. 18, would be held July 28 as well.

Earlier Monday, Tehran's radical Jomhuri Islamic daily quoted an informed source as saying that the election was moved forward because Khamenei had been elected as Iran's supreme leader by the 83-member Assembly of Experts.

Khamenei's second term officially ends Oct. 5. He is forbidden under the 1979 constitution from running for a third term.

Rafsanjani, Khamenei's political ally in the so-called "pragmatist camp" in Tehran's fractious hierarchy, is only declared candidate for the election as of now.

The Iranian media has in recent days taken his election as a foregone conclusion.

Rafsanjani, who is also acting commander-in-chief of Iran's armed forces, has been endorsed by Khamenei and several influential factions.

The Interior Ministry said that a good gesture by the Syrians and we expect them to free the remaining prisoners," Salim Al Za'zan, deputy speaker of the Palestine National Council (PNC) told Reuters in an interview.

He declined to say how many Palestinians were still in Syrian prisons but said the release signified an improvement in relations between Syria and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Syria this week freed 145 Palestinians affiliated to the mainstream Fatah movement of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, who was expelled from Damascus

last month.

Relations between the United States and Libya were tense under the administration of former U.S. President Ronald Reagan. U.S. forces bombed Libya in May 1986 after Washington charged that Qaddafi sponsored "terrorism."

Qaddafi was quoted as saying he hoped to have "balanced relations between the Soviet Union and between America."

However, he indicated that he would maintain his stance that the Gulf of Sidra was Libyan territory.

The United States recognises

in 1983. The Palestinians, from the refugee camp of Al Yarmouk in Syria, were arrested that year for backing Arafat.

Syrian officials made no comment on the release.

The Syrians have held some 2,000 Palestinians and members of the PLO since 1983. Tawheed is based in Tripoli and long been allied with Arafat.

Among the Palestinians held is Arafat's representative in Damascus, Mohammad Amali. It was not known whether he was among those freed.

The Tawheed fighters were apparently seized when dissident Palestinian factions drove Arafat out of Tripoli, his last stronghold in Lebanon after the 1982 Israeli invasion, in a bloody mutiny.

It was not known where the released Palestinians went from Tripoli. But it was likely they would move on to Tunis, or possibly PLO bases in North Yemen.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

ZABO: Min./max. temp.

Amman 17/25
Aqaba 22/34
Deserts 16/33
Jordan Valley 20/33

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 28, Aqaba 36. Humidity readings: Amman 35 per cent, Aqaba 32 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN: Dr. Zain Zaghoul 636911

Or. Hisham Abu Ayyash 631328

Dr. Yousef Sammour 615645

Dr. Mahmoud Abu Malfouh 793144

Firas pharmacy 669192

Al Asmaa pharmacy 637053

Al Salam pharmacy 636730

Yacoob pharmacy 644945

Shmeisani pharmacy 637660

Jordan Television 773111

Radio Jordan 774111

Water Authority 680100

Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power 985230

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be fair and winds will be northerly moderate becoming fresh at times. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Women's federation faces difficulties

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The General Federation of Jordanian Women (GFJW) is presently facing financial and bureaucratic difficulties, which GFJW President Hafsa Al Bashir said "is hindering their work."

During a meeting with Her Majesty Queen Noor Sunday, members of the federation voiced their grievances and offered possible solutions to help the out of their predicament.

"According to Bashir the JD 4 million allocated specifically for the development of Jordanian women in the 1986-90 five-year development plan "has not been distributed." In addition, the yearly JD 25,000 provided by the government in general expenses for the federation "has been cut in half," Bashir says.

She also referred to the role of the Jordanian woman in parliamentary elections. She said that the Jordanian have not been given the chance by the society to advance in the governmental structure, thus the Jordanian women have not exercised their full right to elect and to be elected.

"We are concerned with the attitude towards women (in this respect). We would like to suggest to the higher authorities to emphasise the importance of women being involved in the political process and development of the country in order to change such social attitudes," she said.

100,000 tree saplings sent to be planted in Fao

AMMAN (J.T.) — A total of 100,000 tree saplings have been sent to Iraq by the Ministry of Agriculture to be planted in the Fao peninsula, in compliance with directives of His Majesty King Hussein.

According to a ministry official, the trees are 24 types grown at the ministry's nurseries and were shipped by trucks owned and operated by the Iraqi Jordan Land Transport Company.

Fao was liberated from Iranian occupation in the final phase of the eight-year war last year.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

PARLIAMENTARY TALKS: Within the framework of the Arab parliamentary conference currently convening in Abu Dhabi, Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi Monday conferred separately with head of the Lebanese parliamentary delegation Rashid Sufi and head of the Iraqi parliamentary delegation Sa'di Mahdi Saleh. During the meetings, Lawzi discussed cooperation in the parliamentary fields and issues listed on the conference agenda (Petra).

ZARGA GOVERNOR VISITS DEPARTMENTS: Zarga Governor Mohammad Hussein Al Shobaki Monday visited the Civil Registration and Passport Department (CRPD) in Zarqa and listened to a briefing on the department's activities, and services presented to citizens. Shobaki also visited the Public Works Department and was briefed on its achievements. (Petra)

DRUG PRODUCERS TO MEET: The General Assembly of the Arab Union for Producers of Drugs and Medical Appliances holds its annual meeting Thursday to discuss the board of director's annual report, issuance of a directory for Arab drug industries and planning for holding the joint Euro-Arab drug symposium. They will also discuss the outcome of the Council of Arab Health Ministers meeting which has recently been held in Tripoli, Libya. (Petra)

TIES WITH HUNGARIAN WRITERS: Members of the Jordanian Writers Federation's administrative committee discussed with the Hungarian charge d'affaires in Amman scopes of cultural cooperation between the federation and the Hungarian cultural institutions. The two sides agreed during the meeting to the exchange of invitations and visits between writers from both countries, and to publish joint productions for writers and poets from both countries in both Arabic and Hungarian languages. (Petra)

NAOUR-DEAD SEA ROAD: Ministry of Public Works Security General Dawoud Khalaf Sunday inspected progress of work in the second phase of Naour-Dead Sea Road, starting from Marj Al Hamam intersection and ending with Dar Al Dawa'a area. The second phase includes the construction of a six kilometre, four-lane divided highway. (Petra)

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An art exhibition by three North African artists at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation.
- ★ An art exhibition by Jordanian and Arab artists at Al Wasiti Art Gallery.
- ★ A photography exhibition on Jordan by Francis Chaverou at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ An exhibition entitled "Spotlight Germany" displaying works by eleven German photographers at the Yarmouk University.
- ★ An exhibition of photographs on Arabic and orientalist architecture by Rudolph Hammami at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ An art exhibition entitled "Study in Line and Colour" by Dodi Tabaa at the Petra Bank Art Gallery.
- ★ An archaeological exhibition entitled "Treasures of the Desert" — Hisma region — at the Department of Antiquities Registration Centre.
- ★ An exhibition of handicrafts which includes ceramics, knit-wear and pottery at the Salt Handicrafts Training Centre.
- ★ A photography exhibition entitled "Amman Under King Hussein's Rule" at the Professional Associations Complex, Ramtha.

FOLKLORE

- ★ Jordanian folkloric shows by Jordan Youth Troupe at the main theatre of King Abdullah Complex.

LECTURE

- ★ A lecture by Dr. August Strobel on Khirbet Al Musallaha — a forgotten late bronze age fortress in the Upper Zarqa Ma'in — at the Goethe Institute — 7:00 p.m.

FILM

- ★ A video featuring songs by Phil Collins shown at the American Centre — 7:00 p.m.



His Majesty King Hussein Monday visits the Public Security Department headquarters in Amman. Also present is Prime Minister Zaid Ibn Shaker (Petra photo)

King praises PSD efforts

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday called at the Public Security Department (PSD) headquarters in Amman and was briefed on its plans and programmes. Accompanied by Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, King Hussein toured the department's sections and met

with their directors.

Later, in a statement, the King expressed his appreciation for the efforts exerted in the course of developing the department and the skill of its staff who are dedicated to serving the public.

He said that efforts should be continued and increased with spe-

cial attention to social and humanitarian issues and the concept of comprehensive security.

He said that the police force in Jordan should be placed at the disposal of the people's needs and that there was need for mutual confidence between the two sides.



AL AL BAIT CONFERENCE: His Majesty King Hussein meets with delegates attending the Al Al Bait Foundation meeting which opened in Amman Monday (Petra photo)

New batch of policewomen graduates

AMMAN (Petra) — A new batch of policewomen graduated from the Princess Basma Training Institute Monday after completing a training course in infantry skills.

The centre's director delivered a speech at the outcome of the ceremony outlining the training programme and said that the graduates had received infantry training that required the use of

rifles, swords and batons, as well as other essential skills.

The graduates paraded before the spectators displaying their various skills.

The director of the Public Security Department's Training Division later distributed diplomas and awards to the graduates.

Study seeks to restructure agricultural credit system

AMMAN (Petra) — Failure on the part of local farmers to pay back loans to the Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO) and the Agricultural Credit Corporation (ACC) is among the most major obstacles impeding the work of credit system in the Kingdom, Minister of Planning Ziyad Fariz said Monday.

Minister of Agriculture Adnan Badra and the directors of JCO and the ACC were present at the opening session which is attended by officials and experts involved in credit-related fields.

The study referred to by Fariz has been conducted by the Ministry of Planning in conjunction with GTZ. According to ministry sources, the study defines the points of weakness in the present agricultural credit system in the country and the obstacles that block its development in a sound and appropriate method so as to contribute to agricultural development.

The study refers to the farmers' inability to pay back loans and failure on the part of JCO and the ACC in finding sufficient funds to finance agricultural projects, which leaves the whole matter for the government to handle, and for foreign loans to be obtained to maintain continued flow of

funds for such projects.

The study, which will be debated at the workshop, offers several options for solving the problem including one that calls for linking the credit system in Jordan with the local financial market. The method, according to the study, ensures sufficient sources of funds.

Another suggestion is to create a central financing bank to provide loans for individual projects, such as drilling artesian wells, opening irrigation canals, using modern agricultural methods in farming as well as finding proper storage facilities and central markets for selling crops.



Abu Qoura, W. German Red Cross team hold talks

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation representing the Red Cross in West Germany had a meeting Monday with Dr. Ahmad Abu Qoura, president of the Jordanian National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS), to discuss humanitarian activities and cooperation between the two societies.

Abu Qoura briefed the visitors on the society's activities and programmes carried out through a number of institutions and centres.

The delegation later visited the society's vocational training centre where female trainees take dress-making and typing courses.

According to society officials, the delegation arrived here Saturday on a week-long visit to Jordan.

Egyptian agricultural official ends 1-day visit

AMMAN (Petra) — Mr. Mohammad Adris, secretary general of the Agricultural Cooperative Organisation in Egypt has left Amman for home following a one-day visit to Jordan and talks with Mr. Mrewid, Al Tal, director general of the Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO).

The two officials discussed scopes of cooperation between

Jordan, Syria sign tourism agreement

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan and Syria Monday signed an executive programme for the implementation of a 1987 bilateral agreement on tourism and agreed to study the prospect of setting up a joint company for investments and hotel management.

The programme was signed by Ministry of Tourism's Secretary General Nasri Atallah and Syrian Deputy Minister of Tourism Isam Amiri following three days of talks between the two sides designed to promote cooperation in tourism, developing the tourism industry and facilitating travel between the two countries.

According to an official statement issued at the closing session, the two sides will cooperate in reactivating tourism by offering facilities at customs and border posts for Jordanian and Syrian nationals and tourist groups.

They will conduct joint tourist programmes in cooperation with

hotels, travel and tourist agents and tour operators in the two countries.

With regards to marketing tourist sites abroad, the two sides agreed to coordinate the work of their respective tourist authorities in organising tourist exhibitions at international events, printing and distributing tourist guidebooks, issuing tourist maps and other publications that help attract tourists to Jordan and Syria.

They agreed to produce a joint documentary film on tourist sites in Jordan and Syria, to work out a plan for marketing tourist sites abroad and to encourage an ex-

change of information, publications and other materials dealing with tourism marketing.

The two sides also decided to study the classification of tourist installations with a view to streamlining their services.

Under the programme, they will exchange expertise in management of hotels and tourist centres, planning for investment in tourist centres, training of personnel to operate tourist installations, hotels and restaurants.

They will also exchange visits by instructors from hotel training centres, officials in charge of tourist centres and cooperate in developing handicrafts.

According to Amiri, the programme provides incentives for businessmen to set up joint tourist projects, exchange ideas for recreational facilities and remove all obstacles that used to impede the development of tourism.

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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
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Lipservice no, joint action yes

THE AFRO-ARAB meeting which opened in Kuwait Monday comes at a time when the need for cooperation between the Arab World and African states is more pronounced than ever. The political developments in the Arab-Israeli arena, coupled with the steady diplomatic inroads that the Zionist state has been making into the African continent, warrant that the Arab League and the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) take a fresh look at the situation and come up with strategies to achieve the common goal of peace, freedom, dignity and independence, whether in the context of Israel's occupation of Palestinian lands or the South African regime's racist suppression of the black majority. While formal relations between Israel and African states could be seen as offering another conduit to push ahead with diplomatic efforts to convince the Zionist state of the dire need to accept a just and comprehensive settlement of the Palestinian problem, past experiences have shown us that such hopes, more often than not, were ill-founded. Israel's strategy is clear. It wants to win increased formal relations with African states which can offer cheaper raw materials and more export markets. It also seeks to dilute the traditional African support for international criticism of its actions through extending "technical and financial aid" and tying down some of the countries and also pins hopes on chances that it could locate and entice Jews in the continent into emigrating to the Zionist state. Thrown into the bargain are prospects of chipping in to implementation of South Africa's designs in the region and thus helping its traditional ally.

It is true that the Arab World could be partly blamed for taking the Africans for granted and teetering on the threshold of assuming a direct role in developing African states. Granted that the Arab states extended over \$10 billion to various African states over the past years, the fact remains that long-term relations with many of them could not be solidified and upgraded to the desired levels without greater economic interaction.

The time has come for a radical overview of the situation in Afro-Arab relations, whether on the political, economic or diplomatic level. In the same vein, it is inevitable that the Arab World has to accept the reality that some of the states represented in the Kuwait meeting do have strong relations with Israel. The Arabs should seek to use these links to the best advantage in whatever form and content. It is not enough that awareness is strong on both sides of each other's common concerns and problems. Paying lip-service to the other's causes is not a constructive contribution to solving problems. While agreeing that positive action should come from the highest level of leadership, we hope that the Kuwait meeting will produce tangible progress towards convening the first Afro-Arab summit in 10 years.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i Monday discussed King Hussein's address to the Federation of Jordanian Labour Unions in which he emphasised the basic principles of Jordan's political stand regarding Pan-Arab causes. The paper also commended the Jordanian workers for their determination to pursue the process of construction and development of Jordan. The meeting at the Royal Court, it said, was a chance for the workers of Jordan to speak out in support of the King's wise leadership and his upholding of Arab rights and defending the Arab causes at all levels. The King in his speech reaffirmed the need for joint efforts and sacrifice for the reconstruction of the country and the bolstering of its unity; he stressed that such principles constitute a guarantee for the country's success in various endeavours, the paper noted. It said that the present circumstances the Kingdom is going through, represent a test for its people in general and the workers in particular in the course of the struggle for survival and for attaining national aspirations.

A columnist in Al Ra'i calls attention to the need for more efforts to make available sufficient amounts of drinking water which is becoming scarcer every day with the huge increase in the population. Tareq Masa'eb reminds his readers of the ancient Roman wells and pools and the springs which existed in Madaba, Jerash and other ancient sites, and which were very skilfully exploited with primitive technology. The writer says that several high-cost projects to provide the capital's residents with drinking water proved futile with the result that Amman is still facing water shortages especially in the summer. He urges the public and the concerned authorities to opt for collecting rain water in water wells and underground reservoirs as our ancestors used to do and ensure a sufficient supply of water all the year round.

Al Dostour daily also discussed the meeting at the Royal Court Sunday between King Hussein and the Federation of Jordanian Labour Unions' representatives. The paper said that the event offered a chance to Jordanian workers to re-pledge allegiance to the Hashemite Kingdom and to re-emphasise the determination to work diligently to build the country and attain its aspirations. The paper noted that the King seized the opportunity to reaffirm Jordan's adherence to its internal policies and Pan-Arab stands with the Palestinian and the Iraqi people in their continued struggle to defend the Arab homeland and fend off aggression on Arab soil. The King commended the workers' endeavours in Jordan and urged them to pursue their efforts despite any obstacles.



U.S. seeks to lower spotlight on Fang dispute with China

By Carol Giacomo
Reuter

WASHINGTON — The United States is desperately trying to dim the public spotlight on its dispute with China over dissident Fang Lizhi, believing a solution would be easier in the shadows of private diplomacy.

U.S. officials and private analysts alike say the diplomatic confrontation over Fang — who has taken refuge in U.S. embassy in Peking — has already damaged U.S.-Chinese ties and a compromise becomes more remote each passing day.

Spokesman for the White House and the State Department at daily news briefings now provide only the barest details on Fang, such as confirming his continued stay at the embassy.

"The more it's out from under the klieglights (spotlights), the more this will contribute to getting it resolved," said a senior U.S. official who asked not be identified.

Fang, an astrophysicist, and his college professor wife Li Shuxian, fled the embassy after Chinese troops massacred pro-democracy demonstrators June 4.

He is a well-known campaigner for human rights and political reform and has long been a thorn

in the side of China's Communist government, which barred him from attending a dinner for President George Bush in Peking last February.

After troops hacked by tanks drove demonstrators out of Tiananmen Square, China issued an arrest warrant for Fang and his wife and denounced them as counter-revolutionaries — a term tantamount to traitor in China.

In the view of many China analysts, the authorities would execute Fang if they captured him.

The U.S. embassy had no choice but to harbour Fang, a symbol of courage and free-speech principles Americans hold dear. But it might have erred, as some critics say, in publicly admitting Fang was at the embassy and thus making it impossible for Peking to ignore the situation.

"Once we got asked by reporters about him, what could we do?" the senior official asked rhetorically during an interview with Washington over Fang.

The United States, now in the role of Fang's protector, has accused Peking of murdering its own people in the military drive that cleared Tiananmen Square.

Washington imposed limited sanctions on China as a result, mainly confined to interrupting

military sales.

The United States in turn has become the target of heated Chinese government denunciations as ties between the two countries deteriorate.

Most Western analysts fault China for inflaming the dispute by issuing a formal warrant, televising his photograph and denouncing him in broadcasts and newsprint.

A senior U.S. official expressed optimism this week the case would be resolved soon without violence, like a Chinese assault on the embassy.

But there has been no hint a deal was imminent despite a series of meetings between State Department and Chinese officials. Many analysts say the impasse could linger for months, even years.

"It could easily be months," the State Department Asia expert agreed.

Secretary of State James Baker and top aides were said to be thoroughly briefed on the potential long-term nature of the dispute before Fang was granted refuge. They evidently knew what the United States might be getting into.

There is precedent for such cases. The most prolonged involved Joseph Cardinal Mindszenty, a Hungarian who fought against the Nazis and Communism and lived from 1956 until 1971 in the U.S. mission in Budapest before he was allowed safe passage to Italy.

Hungary hopes Nagy funeral will help country face the future

By David Lewis
Reuter

BUDAPEST — Hungary's Communist rulers hope mass mourning for executed former Prime Minister Imre Nagy will unite the country to face an uncertain future and some radicals pray it will spell the end of the Communist system.

In a mass outpouring of emotion, at least a quarter of a million people attended funeral ceremonies on Friday for Nagy, four associates and all victims of the 1956 Hungarian uprising.

Some opposition politicians believe the funeral boosted the reform wing of the Communist Party while others, more radical, expressed the hope the country was also burying the entire Communist system.

"Today is a milestone in the turning of an era," 1956 veteran Imre Mics, a member of the Hungarian Democratic Forum, told the vast crowd in a black-draped hero's square.

"We are burying a regime, bad from the outset, rejected by the nation, forced upon us and fallen in every respect,"

Viktor Orban, leader of the independent youth group Fidesz, won applause when he said Communism and democracy were incompatible and attacked government and party officials for an about-face in their attitude to Nagy.

Communist reformer Imre Pozsgay told the state news agency MTI: "This day is a joining of hands, its essence is national reconciliation and the beginning of work with a new tempo and impetus from June 17."

Hungary hardly needs a government with broad popular backing to tackle economic problems that have forced a cut in living standards and the closure of loss-making factories to service East Europe's highest per capita debt.

"There can be no reconciliation because the murderers are still among us," 44-year-old technician Ilona Ivankov told reporters on Saturday, standing at Nagy's flower-strewn grave in Budapest's Kozma street cemetery. "They get huge pensions and live in villas."

Unmarked graves
A reform Communist who

embraced demands of 1956 "revolutionaries," Nagy was hanged as a traitor on June 16, 1958, after setting up a multi-party government and seeking to withdraw Hungary from the Warsaw Pact during the uprising.

He and four associates were buried in unmarked graves among hundreds of others exhumed after the uprising.

Pozsgay said the funeral was a magnificent event, adding that conditions for a multi-party system were better today than in 1956.

were exhumed just 11 weeks ago for formal reburial.

Only since then have the party and government begun to portray Nagy as the victim of a show trial, a statesman and a symbol of reform.

Pozsgay said the funeral was a magnificent event, adding that conditions for a multi-party system were better today than in 1956.

Palme trial raises questions about unique Swedish press ethics

By Johann Rapp
The Associated Press

STOCKHOLM — Swedes may be the last people on earth to learn the name and picture of the accused killer of Sweden's Prime Minister Olof Palme — at least if they depend on their national newspapers.

Carl Gustaf Christer Pettersson, who is on trial for the 1986 shooting, is known here only as "the 42-year-old."

Under self-imposed Swedish press rules, the identity of a criminal suspect is never published until he is convicted and sentenced, and even then it must clearly be in the public interest. Violations can bring fines for a newspaper and its senior editor.

The rule is meant to guarantee protection for the innocent. But the exceptional case of the Palme murder trial has put the rule under a strain, and several provincial papers have removed their muzzles.

"Christer Pettersson is a historic person, whether guilty or not," said Per Ahlstrom, editor of Nya Norrland, a daily with a circulation of 20,000 in the northern town of Harnosand.

"I find that there is evident public interest that the name of the person accused of the murder becomes public knowledge," he said.

International news agencies and foreign newspapers published Pettersson's identity and his police mug shot after he was formally charged last December.

Swedish papers ran into difficulty when Pettersson, known as "the 41-year-old" at the time of his arrest in December, had a birthday in April. For a few weeks he was referred to as "the 42-year-old former 41-year-old."

About 20 local newspapers have broken the restrictions, arguing that it was ridiculous to try to hide the identity when foreign newspapers reporting on the trial were widely available in Sweden.

Other absurdities in the continued suppression have become evident.

Under Swedish Freedom of Information Laws, Pettersson's name was available after prosecutors filed the indictment last month. Anyone who calls the Stockholm district court can ask the court clerk to read it over the telephone.

Letters to the Editor

I have just returned from my first visit to Jordan as a member of the party which travelled with international pianist, John Briggs, for his sunset concert in Petra, on Tuesday 23rd May.

Our week-long visit was made truly delightful by the friendliness and helpfulness of everyone we met, but above all I would like to express my heart-felt thanks to the children of Amman.

The last day of our visit was Thursday, 25th May. Jordanian Independence Day — and we rode on the steam train from the centre of Amman out to Queen Alia International Airport.

It seemed that every child in Amman had come to wave to us. I was moved to tears by their friendly greetings which made our journey into a "royal" progress.

One day, I hope to return to Jordan but until then I send my good wishes for peace and friendship to the people of Jordan.

Margaret H.P. Wilson (Mrs.)

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After the Holiday Inn hotel
"Jordan's" 3rd Circle

Features



Crowded Cairo has failed to please Ramses the Great

Ramses the Great flees Cairo for the safety of home

By Mimi Mann
The Associated Press

MIT RAHINA, Egypt — Finding a new home isn't easy if you're 9.7 metres tall and weigh 50 tonnes. But for Ramses the great, welcome mats were out all over Egypt.

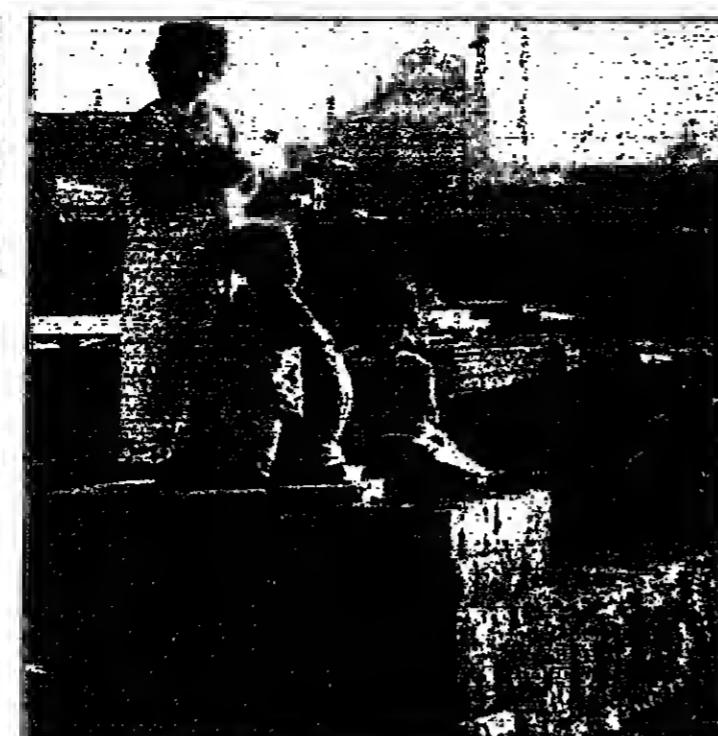
The question was which mat to choose, and officials have decided there's no place like home.

In 1954, the Rose granite colossus of the warrior Pharaoh Ramses II was moved from its original site in Mit Rahina, a quiet village at the edge of the desert, to a platform in front of Cairo's bustling central railway depot.

That decision proved a lingering headache for antiquities officials, who watched in horror as the 3,200-year-old statue was battered by modern society.

In recent years, talk turned to saving the masterpiece. Suggestions have been as numerous as the Pharaoh's wives, said to have totalled 66. A journalist wanted to put Ramses by the Giza pyramids. An Egyptologist suggested an artificial island in the Nile.

In early June, the decision



now, not only for its safety but also the Pharaoh's dignity. Mokhtar said.

"Such statues never belonged in a public square," he said. "They belonged in temples, facing the people, as a warning and reminder of the Pharaoh's might."

"When you come into Cairo from the north, you see Ramses' backside. That was never meant to be on public view. For one of Egypt's greatest Pharaohs, this isn't proper."

Such arguments entered into the decision by Tawfik and Minister of Culture Farouk Hosni to take the statue home.

It will come to a quiet village rimmed in date palms and swaying halifa grass, which, when known as Memphis, brought fear and dread to adversaries in the ancient world. Memphis was Egypt's first true capital and later its military headquarters.

Ramses II ruled Egypt for 66 years, ending in 1224 B.C., and brought the country great power and wealth. He built more buildings and more colossal statues than any other Pharaoh.

He had other capitals, but Ramses had special affection for Memphis, 27 kilometres south of Cairo. Memphis is thought to have begun as no more than a tiny fortress beside the Nile. In its heyday it incorporated military



barracks, temples, palaces, shipyards, weapons factories and craftshops.

Its cemeteries extended for 80 kilometres and included Giza plateau, home of the pyramids. Historians record that its temple of Ptah, the creator God and Memphis' patron, was a third of a mile long and a quarter-mile wide 500 by 400 metres and fronted by monumental statues of Ramses.

How many colossi of the Pharaoh graced Memphis is not known, but records say at least 15 were at the Ptah temple alone. A fallen statue that would have stood about 13.6 metres, fingernails the size of hands, lies toppled on its back. A third colossus is the centerpiece of the Ramses exhibit now finishing a tour.

Pieces of other statues lie scattered among ancient Memphis' ruins, red granite torsos and heads mingled haphazardly with weeds. Some are covered with dirt for protection from village children, who use the ruins as playgrounds.

For part of the year, the sacred texts, column bases and statues are trapped in marshes, salty water rising as high as 2 metres, soaking and decaying all in its path.

Tawfik said he believes returning the Ramses statue will mark a new beginning for the ancient city. "When visitors come to Mit Rahina, they stay only 30 minutes or so, just enough to see the fallen Ramses and the monuments on display," he said. "We want to provide enough to keep them here all day."

He said Memphis suffered because it was too important too long. Lived in for 1,700 years by Ramses' time, the city was built largely of perishable mud-brick. Generations built on the fallen mud-brick houses of their forbears so that "what we have now are ruins, not a complete city," Tawfik said.

Except for the remnants of the once-magnificent temples, little of old Memphis remains in Mit Rahina.

"The ancient Egyptian ... was

Life at an AIDS Sanatorium in Castro's Cuba

By John Chisholm
Reuters

\$10,000 a year.

PARIS — Soldiers back from service in Africa, a married couple and a three-year-old baby are among inmates held in quarantine at Cuba's AIDS sanatorium, said the first international journalists to visit the centre.

Of 300 people at the Los Cocos Centre, where Cuban carriers of the AIDS virus have been in enforced isolation since 1986, 100 are troops withdrawn from Africa since 1988, two reporters who filmed inside the barbed-wire enclosure told reporters.

Marie-Monique Robin and Gonzalo Arriaga spent 10 days in June filming the centre for V.I. presse, a Paris-based television news agency. The film will be shown later this month on French television.

They said the Communist government was spending millions of dollars to win support from the centre's inmates and the Cuban public.

The policy has been described as totalitarian by foreign critics. But a senior army officer, quarantined there since Cuba started withdrawing 50,000 troops from Angola last December, supported the programme.

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"In Ramses' day, that donkey's owner would have been killed," he said, shaking his head.

Robin said most Cubans she interviewed supported enforced isolation.

"They have accepted the official view which is that the majority must protect itself against the minority of the infected," she said.

Health Minister Hector Terry defended isolation and compulsory testing: "our country cannot afford to allow the disease to spread."

But one couple of carriers

filmed said it was hard adapting to life in isolation, even though medical care gave them hope of living. "I'd rather be at home with my sons," the wife said.

A middle-aged painter was the fiercest critic of confinement.

"They have shattered my life. At times I wish I were dead. I have only one wish, to get out, even if it's just to the cemetery," he said on camera.

The Caribbean Island, which

says it has no serious drugs or prostitution problem, is one of the countries least affected by AIDS, which is spread mainly through sexual intercourse and infected hypodermic syringes.

More than half of the sexually

active members of Cuba's 10.5 million population have been tested, with only five in every 100,000 showing signs of infection.

Of 60 people at Los Cocos who have actually developed the disease, five are in the terminal stage.

One dying patient is a three-year-old baby, who was born with AIDS and has been at Los Cocos since she was three months old. Her father got AIDS in Angola, her mother said.

High-tech facsimile machines become common business fixture in U.S.

This is the first of a two part article

By Richard Lipkin

NEW YORK — One sweltering day in New York City, the telephone rings in a neighbourhood lunch shop.

"Deli, what's the order?"

"This is Fox and Brown around the corner. We need about two dozen sandwiches and sodas for a lunch meeting, as soon as possible. I've got a long list here. Can you take it over the phone?"

"You've got a fax machine, right?"

"Yeah."

"So fax me the list."

Meanwhile, on a flight from Washington to London, an American financial analyst realises he has forgotten key figures for a portfolio he is assessing.

Waiting clients at London's Heathrow Airport will be livid if their market projections are incomplete. He quickly realises there is a way out. From his briefcase he removes a portable fax machine. The flight attendant ushered him to the airborne radio-telephone. Within minutes he has reached his secretary who sends him the precious documents via the telephone, from fax machine to fax machine.

Some 9,000 metres below, an oil tanker chugging along in high seas rises and falls with the blue swells. The captain is concerned. His instruments suggest a storm might be approaching. But there is only one way to know the true long-range forecast. Aiming a special antenna toward a weather satellite, he watches the ship's facsimile machine plot a fresh weather map for the mid-Atlantic waters. Minutes later, studying the chart, he notes a high-pressure

cally doubled between 1986 and 1987....," says Don Ryan, an analyst with CAP International.

"The fax market is growing much faster than the overnight mail service market, in terms of volume, although in terms of total revenue, the overnight courier market is still larger. It is about a \$5 billion to \$6 billion industry."

That there is so much interest in facsimile machines throughout corporate America is really no great surprise. "Faxes are cheap," says one corporate executive. Lower prices is new electronic gadgets always spur a market, especially in the world of communications. But what is particularly intriguing, as another industry analyst puts it, is the way in which faxes are fueling the "message explosion." Sparked by the easy availability of quick, cheap means of communication, the volume of messages, memos, documents, sundry mail and electronic information exchanged in the business world is expanding on all sides — in some cases representing a flood of data beyond the capacity of people to use sensibly.

"Messaging of all types seems to be growing," says Patricia Cope, a project manager with Frost & Sullivan Inc., a market research firm in New York, who is working on an analysis of the facsimile marketplace and its relation to other types of electronic communications.

"I think we're seeing a repeat of the copier phenomenon," she says. "Several years ago, when business bought a copying machine, the standard sales approach was to ask a company how many copies it made each month, and then select an appropriate model. But once the

machine was installed, the copy volume always rose. With fax machines, I think we're seeing the same thing. Firms bring in faxes for a particular application, but once they're in the office, people find all sorts of other ways in which they can be used."

Thus it is somewhat ironic that the latest phase in the information age is no less than a machine that uses lightning-swift digital pulses, channelled (in some cases) through fiber-optic telephone lines, and reencoded by computer chips, all in order to produce a good old-fashioned piece of paper on the other end.

"In a sense, the facsimile machine seems like an anachronism, almost a step backward from computer message systems," says Michael F. Cavanagh, president of Cavanagh Associates, a postal and telecommunications consulting firm in Washington.

"But its simplicity and ease of use is very appealing," he says. "Fax machines may turn out to be a migration device, helping many people make the transition to a more electronic society."

As corporations weave global electronic webs, tying foreign branches to domestic offices to headquarters, the lines of communication grow ever more complex. Computer systems signal each other; cursors pulse at thousands of terminals. "You would think that, in the midst of the present information explosion, people would be resisting new information technology," says James R. Beniger, associate professor of communications and sociology at the University of Southern California's Annenberg School of Communications. "Yet, the more information there is, the harder it is to get people's attention. It's like applying for a

job that thousands of people are applying for. People will do anything — they'll glue their resumes to a brick just to get them to stand out. Faxing sort of does the same thing; it's attractive because it's an attention grabber."

Another factor in the fax machine's popularity, Beniger adds, is that "the more information there is, the more valuable graphics become. Pictures summarise a lot of data."

"Ironically, there's a centuries-old prejudice against graphics — which seems very countercultural — as a way of conveying information. For the most part, graphic material in books is used for illustration and is secondary to the text. This goes back to the days when print was set by hand, and graphics were much harder to deal with, more expensive, more cumbersome. Authors didn't think about communicating in graphic form."

"But that prejudice is quickly dissolving. Pictures are terrific when you're overloaded with information, and faxes are especially good at transmitting nonverbal, pictorial information. I think this has a lot to do with the reason faxes are thriving at a time when computers are so readily available."

Consider, for a moment, the extent of facsimile machines in an electronic world that mass-communications theorist Marshall McLuhan once said would soon become a "global village." In addition to privately-owned machines, a network of public fax stations — machines that serve like public telephones — is growing.

"A customer pays a per-page charge to send copies to a designated receiver. At present, according to Bill McCue, publisher of the Public Fax Direct-

tory, there are roughly 4,000 outlets in the United States, and expectations are that the number will surpass 9,000 by the end of 1989.

Already transmissions of more than 400,000 documents each month are generating some \$6 million in business. Indeed, a public fax user is not limited to receiving machines in other copying shops, hotels, commercial mail centres or airports, where the majority are located.

Thumbing through the 125,000 entries in the Fax Phone Book, published by Dial-A-Fax in Deerfield Beach, Florida, the user can send anything from laundry lists to legal documents to advertisements.

"With Federal Express and other overnight services, people started using them for prestige as well as actual need," says Patricia Cope. "The same is true for fax, especially in image-conscious fields like consulting, advertising and public relations. Sending a document by courier service gives it an added importance."

Faximile does this too. It provides a sense of immediacy, or urgency, that may or may not be called for, but adds something anyway."

Mind numbing too is the range of machines. At the National Office Machine Dealers Association show in Las Vegas, Nevada, the 32 assorted vendors of fax machines introduced 47 new models, adding to the more than 300 already available. Some sport such oddities as "remote broadcasting" — they will send documents to more than 100 machines simultaneously — and memory storage, the capacity to keep electronic records of incoming pages and recall them later. There are faxes for cars, for boats, for briefcases, to be used virtually anywhere a telephone line is available.

— *Insight Magazine*.

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PLAZA Cinema Tel: 677420

PINK NIGHTS

Performances: 3:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Reflecting growing confidence

Gulf Arab stock markets blossom

KUWAIT (R) — Share trading has begun to blossom in the oil-rich Gulf, with governments seemingly confident they can avoid a repetition of a 1982 crash that plunged Kuwait into recession.

Plans to develop several Gulf markets stopped dead in their tracks when Kuwaiti share prices collapsed in a tangle of wild speculation and post-dated cheques, leaving a \$90 billion mountain of debt that is still being sorted out.

In the years since, Kuwait was the region's only official exchange. But in the last month trading floors have opened in Oman and Bahrain and a second, parallel market has been set up in Kuwait.

"Five years ago, confidence in shares and stock markets was not the best," said Ziad Taki, chief economist at the National Bank of Kuwait.

"But in the last five or six years, the good companies have been able to get back on their feet," he added.

The potential amount of money at stake in the six countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) is huge.

One share analyst in Saudi Arabia estimated the kingdom's private citizens had an estimated 150 to 200 billion Saudi riyals

(\$40 billion to \$50 billion) in liquid funds inside and outside the country.

Economists said governments hoped the new exchanges would direct some of this money into productive activities, giving a boost to economies that have staggered since the oil boom ended in the early 1980s.

Raising funds has not been a problem, they said. Until now, small investors have had few investment options other than bank deposits and real estate.

Economists said that the October 1987 crash on world markets sparked the return of a significant amount of capital that had been invested abroad, and investor confidence has been increasing gradually since the August ceasefire in the war between Iran and Iraq.

But Jasem Al Sadoun of Kuwait's Al Shall Economic Consultants said the capital-rich market has been confronted by a lack of local investments.

"High living standards and low productivity has put local business at a comparative disadvan-

tage," he said.

In Kuwait, one solution has been to approve the listing of unit trusts on the stock exchange, where financial companies would collect and combine cash from small investors to invest overseas.

Bahrain is also studying the idea of mutual funds, said Fawzi Belhaz, head of the island-state's new exchange.

Taki said the need for an outlet for local funds was most acute in Kuwait, where there was more money and the financial infrastructure more sophisticated.

He said building up the market would allow the Kuwaiti government to sell off shares in companies it had set up or had purchased to shore up the market after the 1982 crash.

The new parallel market is designed mainly to encourage smaller companies to go public. As they grow in size and strength they will be allowed to transfer to the main exchange.

Bahrain, on the other hand, has been seeking to play a role as a regional share market while Oman has sought to build up small local companies.

The United Arab Emirates has also been looking into setting up an exchange.

Saudi Arabia, in spite of a series of public share flotations

last year and plans for more this year, looks unlikely to open an exchange of its own any time soon, stock market analysts said.

Trading in the kingdom was taken out of the hands of brokers and turned over to the banks in the aftermath of the Kuwaiti crash. Deals are now put together through a cumbersome system of telexes.

A trading floor experiment ended abruptly in 1987 after only 10 days due to pressure from merchants and religious groups opposed to the system, according to bankers.

Belhaz said Bahrain would be safe from speculation like that which led to the Kuwaiti crash.

He said all trades would go through a handful of licensed dealers and be monitored closely.

Dealing would be stopped if it appeared share prices of a specific company did not reflect their true value closely enough, and minimum and maximum limits have been set for daily price fluctuations.

In Kuwait, the market is also being strictly controlled. "The government is making greater efforts to ensure companies adhere to the objectives they were set up for and not speculate in the stock market like before," said Taki.

IEA forecasts higher world energy consumption, pollution

PARIS (Agencies) — The world will be using 50 per cent more energy by 1990 in the next century, causing an inevitable rise in pollution, the International Energy Agency (IEA) said Monday.

The West's energy "watchdog" organisation said Third World and communist nations that cannot afford many environmental safeguards would account for much of the rise in energy use.

A new IEA long-term forecast also said fossil fuels — oil, coal and gas — would still be meeting nearly 90 per cent of world requirements in the early 21st century, with a big jump in the West's dependence on Middle East oil.

Burning fossil fuels produces carbon dioxide, indicated by many scientists as the chief culprit in the predicted "greenhouse effect" warming of the earth.

"Our current projections would imply an increase in carbon dioxide emissions of two per cent a year for the world," George Kowalski, IEA chief economic advisor, told Reuters.

"Over the next 20 years it could be a 50 per cent increase."

The IEA said there had been no significant increase in energy efficiency outside the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the 24-nation bloc of non-communist industrial nations.

Energy demand in the developing and communist countries had meanwhile doubled between 1971-1987, so that together they now consumed about as much as OECD countries.

The new IEA figures forecast that Third World and Communist Bloc energy consumption would rise to 58 per cent of the world total by 2005.

Oil's relative importance in the global energy mix should decline as use of natural gas doubles, the IEA suggested. Gas yields less carbon dioxide than coal or oil.

Even so, the IEA long-term projections show worldwide oil demand is likely to grow by one-third, on the assumption of only a modest real price rise.

Coal use is likely to remain broadly constant at about one-third of total energy use. Nuclear

power would be strengthened on the market by instilling more production discipline among its members. Sharp planned cuts in its supply to consuming nations earlier in the year helped drive up oil prices, leading to higher gasoline prices for consumers.

The report, which takes a look at energy trends over a 17-year period, said OPEC produced 25.4 million barrels of crude oil a day in 1971 to account for about half the world's total output.

In 1980, after two shocks that drove oil prices sharply higher, the group's share of the market slipped to 44 per cent of total output. OPEC's production was 27.5 million barrels a day.

The report underscored the fact that the 13-nation group no longer has the strong grip on the world oil market it once did.

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The report, which



Two brothers greet their third brother, who returned to Namibia after spending years in exile.

SWAPO leaders return to Namibia

WINDHOEK (Agencies) — Leaders of the South-West African Peoples Organisation (SWAPO), many of whom had been exiled for nearly 30 years, flew home Sunday and said they hoped ballots would replace bullets in Namibia.

SWAPO President Sam Nujoma was not among those returning. SWAPO officials say they have to make sure it is safe for him to return.

Hage Geingob, elections director for the guerrilla organisation that fought a 23-year bush war against South African occupation of Africa's last colony, kissed the tarmac when he stepped off a Zambian Airways plane.

Most of the 150 dignitaries, including 11 members of SWAPO's Executive Committee and politburo, sang as they walked to the terminal building at sunset. About 8,000 people had waited to greet them, but only 200 were left when they arrived after the plane was delayed three hours by technical difficulties during a stop in Angola.

Most of the SWAPO leaders had come from Lusaka, Zambia, on the same plane that last week brought the first of some 41,000 refugees due to return to Namibia to participate in a U.N.-supervised independence process.

In Luanda, Angola, Nujoma gave Sunday's team a new blue, red and green flag and a message of friendship for Namibia's whites.

"SWAPO of Namibia extends a hand of friendship to all the people of Namibia ... we believe there is room for all of us, including the whites," Nujoma told reporters at Luanda airport.

He said SWAPO's war against South African rule in the territory

India, Pakistan to defuse Siachen tension

ISLAMABAD (Agencies) — India and Pakistan have agreed to observe a 17-year-old peace agreement and redeploy their forces on a disputed Himalayan glacier to reduce the possibility of conflict, according to a senior Pakistani official.

Foreign Secretary Humayun Khan told reporters the agreement reached Saturday over the Siachen glacier removed a potential source of conflict between the two regional rivals.

In 1972, India and Pakistan signed a peace agreement at the Indian resort of Simla after their war over Bangladesh, agreeing to a military control line in disputed Kashmir state, where Siachen lies 6,300 metres above sea level.

The two countries' forces have clashed frequently at the world's highest battleground since 1984 after India took over some parts of Siachen claimed by Pakistan.

"Both sides committed themselves to the observance of the Simla agreement and relocation of forces to positions occupied at the time of the Simla agreement," Humayun Khan said Sunday.

"The exact location of these positions will be worked out in detail by the military authorities of the two countries."

Humayun Khan Sunday ended two days of talks with his Indian counterpart S.K. Singh to review progress in improving ties between their countries.

Papandreu loses majority

ATHENS (Agencies) — Greece's scandal-ridden Socialist government came a distant second in national elections but said Monday it would try to retain power by forging a coalition with the third-placed Communists.

Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu conceded that following Sunday's election, his Panhellenic Socialist Movement (Pasok), which has ruled for eight years, was now the country's second party.

But referring to combined Pasok-Communist strength, he said: "In parliament there is a democratic and progressive majority. We will keep on fighting with optimism and certainty for the final outcome (a leftist government)."

With 85 per cent of the vote counted, the main opposition centre-right New Democracy Party of Constantine Mitsotakis was almost six points ahead of Papandreu with 44.6 per cent.

This would give him 145 deputies, well short of an absolute majority in the 300-seat parliament.

The Communist alliance said it

ment. But commentators gave Mitsotakis no hope of reaching a majority in the final count and little chance of finding partners to form a government.

Ironically, although voters handed Papandreu a humiliating defeat after watching his government wallow in financial and private scandals for 10 months, he has the best chance of forming a coalition.

Pasok took about 39 per cent of the vote, or 124 seats in parliament. If it can strike a deal with the Communists, an alliance grouped around the Communist Party, he could carry on as prime minister. The alliance took 12.8 per cent, or 29 seats.

Smaller parties took about 3.6 per cent, or two seats.

The Communist alliance said it

next move. In the past it has ruled out a coalition with Pasok as long as Papandreu or anyone in his government associated with a series of financial scandals stayed on.

But after the result, the Communist Party leader Harilaos Florakis told reporters: "The alliance, which emerges strongly from this election, will fight all conservative and unpopular policies."

On the campaign trail, leaders of the alliance called for the Pasok government to be "cleansed" and accused its leaders of being corrupt and betraying the Greek people.

It remains unclear whether the alliance can be coaxed into a leftist coalition by the prospect of the first Communist ministers since a 1944 national unity government. That was headed by George Papandreu, the prime minister's father.

Mitsotakis tried to put a brave face on his failure to win an absolute majority, saying: "The Greek people by a great majority

surpasses 60 per cent has disapproved of Pasok policies."

But it was difficult for almost any political commentator to imagine how New Democracy could lose the elections.

Pasok was savaged daily by scandals, from the 70-year-old prime minister's extramarital affairs with Olympic Airways boss Dimitris Lianis, 34, to the jailing of several Pasok officials in connection with a \$200-million bank embezzlement scandal.

The party itself was in disarray. During a confidence motion in parliament in March, three members of Papandreu's party — all former Pasok ministers — refused to back their government and abstained from the vote.

Papandreu was helped by a new electoral law, passed by Pasok in March, which was intended to help smaller parties. In effect it helped only the Communist alliance and provided Papandreu with a possible post-election ally.

Tens of thousands of conservative supporters poured into the streets

of the capital Monday to celebrate New Democracy's victory.

The joyous crowds also gathered outside New Democracy's headquarters located near the centre of Athens early Monday to cheer Mitsotakis.

Despite the street celebrations many in the crowd realised that New Democracy, first in the tabulations, had failed to win an absolute majority and that a period of political instability could lie ahead.

Hundreds of cars draped with New Democracy's blue and white banners and Greek flags, roared through the city centre, blaring their horns. Traffic police stood by, merrily attempting to keep intersections clear.

"New Democracy has toppled Pasok from the government," Mitsotakis told thousands of screaming supporters from the steps of party headquarters, as dawn rose over Athens.

As the results slowly trickled out shortly after the polls closed Sunday night, gloom set in at the Socialist camp.

COLUMN

Widows fight over double-timer's estate

ANNISTON (AP) — A man described by an attorney as having lived two lives left two women claiming to be his widow and fighting over his \$8-million estate. A trial was scheduled to start Monday in circuit court on which of two wills will be valid. Ruth Davis, 75, of Anniston, and Flossie Davis, 62, of Tallahassee, Florida, claim to have been married at the same time to Davis, a real estate developer and farmer. Both women say they learned that their husband had two wives only after his death. After Davis died last year at 77, Flossie Davis presented a will she said was written in 1969 placing most of his estate in a trust fund for her and their two children, said A.W. Bolt, an attorney for Ruth Davis. Bolt said Ruth is contesting the will. He said a 1959 will leaving the estate to Ruth was found three weeks ago. She and Davis had no children. Bolt said Davis spent weekends, and holidays, with Flossie in Tallahassee and weekends on the farm with Ruth. After about 30 years of marriage to Ruth, Bolt said, Davis met the other woman in 1959, when she and her husband worked as tenant farmers on his property. Bolt said Davis soon became entangled with Flossie, that Flossie divorced her husband and, with her daughter, moved in with the Davises. Flossie claims Davis married her in 1960, and two years later moved her and her daughter to Tallahassee. "He bought her a home, set her up, and supported her the rest of his life," Bolt said. Ruth said she never knew about her husband's marriage to Flossie. Pat Birmingham, Flossie's attorney, said his client had thought her husband divorced Ruth before their marriage.

Porno star faces tax charges

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Pornographic-movie star Harry Reems faces federal charges of failure to file income tax returns despite accumulated earnings of more than \$80,000. A grand jury indicted Reems under his true name, Herbert Streicher. Assistant U.S. attorney Ronni McLaren said the indictment charges that Reems, 41, failed to file income tax returns for 1982, 1984 and 1985. During that time, Reems starred in several X-rated videos and movies, said McLaren. If convicted, Reems could be sentenced to three years in prison and fined \$75,000. He is best known for a role as the inquisitive doctor in "Deep Throat."

No skimpiness at Harrods

LONDON (R) — Egyptian-owned Harrods department store has banned shoppers in skimpy shorts from its opulent aisles, telling them to come back after they cover up. "This is not Brighton beach after all," said a spokesman for Britain's best-known store in London's Knightsbridge area. He said scores of customers had been turned away, "politely but firmly," during the current hot spell because they did not meet the dress code of owner Mohammad Al Fayed. "What we do not want to see are shorts so skimpy as to be potentially offensive, tops that reveal too much naked flesh, be it male or female, and tatty cut-off jeans," the spokesman told reporters. He suggested "properly cut, tailored shorts ... which we sell in the store" would be appropriate attire.

Gandhi firm on Sri Lanka

NEW DELHI (R) — Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi refused Monday to bow to a Sri Lankan demand for a quick withdrawal of Indian troops from the island, despite Colombo's reported intention to seek United Nations help to remove them.

Gandhi said he had heard only Sri Lankan press reports of the threat to involve the U.N. "We will not respond to media reports," he told Indian news agencies.

Gandhi said he was awaiting official word of Sri Lanka's intentions before commenting.

But he indicated that a move to involve the U.N. would not change his refusal to meet Colombo's demand that the 45,000-strong Indian peace-keeping force (IPKF) be sent home before the end of July.

"We are the guarantors of peace in the island," he was quoted as saying of a force sent to Sri Lanka and until (it) is fully completed, our responsibility is primarily for the security of Tamils and also the unity and integrity of the island," he said last week.

Western diplomats said the row over the IPKF could become an international embarrassment to Gandhi if Colombo raised the issue at the U.N. Security Council or the International Court of Justice at the Hague.

The row flared earlier this month when India refused to agree to Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa's demand for a complete withdrawal by July 29.

"If Mr. Gandhi does not manage this crisis soon, it could turn the IPKF from the peace-keeping force it was originally perceived to be and into an occupation army," said one diplomat.

The war is especially unpopular in India's southern state of Tamil Nadu, where more than 50 million Indian Tamils live and maintain strong links with Sri Lankan Tamils.

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A Sri Lankan policeman keeps guard at an Indian establishment in Colombo following an extremist ultimatum on all Indians to leave Sri Lanka

an Indian army truck in eastern Sri Lanka, killing four peacekeeping soldiers and two rebels who were under arrest, Indian officials said Sunday.

Two soldiers and eight suspected Tamil rebels who had been arrested were injured

seriously in the land mine blast, said officials.

An Indian high commission (embassy) spokeswoman said the land mine was planted by the militants of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam group.

Sri Lankan military officials

lying on the ground, she said she saw Pettersson standing in a well-lit spot about five metres away.

"I felt a threat from that man. I understand I would not get any help from him," she said.

Mrs. Palme said she saw Pettersson twice more in the next two or three minutes, once looking at her from across the street and once about 40 metres away.

She described in detail the clothes worn by the man as well as his distinctive walk. But she said she had not seen a gun in his hand.

She said that when she saw him in a video lineup almost three years later, after his arrest last December, she was shocked. "I had not expected to see this person in the lineup."

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